

REMARKS

Prior to the present Supplemental Amendment, claims 1-35 were all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 20-22 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 4-19 and 23-35 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present Supplemental Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 4, 21, and 23. Thus, upon entry of the present Supplemental Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-20, 22, and 24-35 will be all the claims pending in the present application.

I. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent Publication EP 49521 A2 to Nakanishi et al. ("Nakanishi"). Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4 and intervening claim 2, and has canceled claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable. Since claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Further, Applicant has amended claim 20 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 23 and intervening claim 21, and has canceled claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 20 is now allowable. Since claim 22 is dependent upon claim 20, Applicant submits that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/J. Warren Lytle, Jr./

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

J. Warren Lytle, Jr.
Registration No. 39,283

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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